

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

NATURAL HISTORY IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
THE CORE CURRICULUM WITH KEVIN COOK:
BECOMING A NATURALIST

AUGUST 6, 2007

COURSE LEVEL: I COURSE #: 08-041

FEE: \$85

INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN J. COOK

*IF YOU REGISTER FOR ALL SIX COURSES IN THE NATURAL HISTORY CORE CURRICULUM; ONE IS FREE!

LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Field Seminar & Conference Center
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

TIME: 8:30 AM. – 4:30 PM



PAGE 1 OF 2

COURSE DESCRIPTION: As the last program in the Core Curriculum series, this seminar will focus entirely on blending all the previously covered skills to achieve a specific harmony of intellect and spirit that fosters a natural “outdoor presence.” Best expressed as a certain way of being outdoors that transcends status as the perennial visitor, this outdoor presence becomes the source of passion that drives a person to acquire knowledge and ultimately to share that knowledge with others. Specific exercises will guide participants toward achieving this outdoor presence.

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

1. Integrate natural history knowledge and outdoor skills
2. Define and elucidate “outdoor presence”
3. Encourage personal intellectual and spiritual development regarding natural history
4. Establish a standard by which to gauge personal growth

TAKE-HOME OUTCOMES

1. Exhilarated sense of belonging to the natural world
2. Instilled or rekindled enthusiasm of learning and to sharing

COURSE LEVEL: I

Moderate hikes of less than five miles per day with elevation gain of less than 1,000 feet

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.rmna.org): Kevin has spent the past 33 years exploring Colorado in order to experience its wildlife firsthand. Realizing that no species lives alone, he studies all plant and animal groups with a special enthusiasm devoted to the myriad connections among all life. He writes natural history columns for newspapers and magazines, edits technical articles for scientific publications, leads wildlife observation tours, and teaches various bird and wildflower classes.

INSTRUCTOR’S WEBSITE:

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Respect for individual ideas will be observed. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR POOLING: Rocky Mountain Field Seminars courses utilize car pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the Park. Car pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car pooling to course locations.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS
LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

PAGE 2 OF 2

NATURAL HISTORY IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
THE CORE CURRICULUM WITH KEVIN COOK:
SHARING KNOWLEDGE OF THE OUTDOORS

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

8:30-8:45	Welcome: introduction to RMNA and meeting the participants
8:45-9:00	Restroom break
9:00-9:30	Drive to field site in Rocky Mountain National Park
9:30-10:00	Walk-and-talk discussion relevant to personal development as a naturalist Multitasking: in daily life and as a naturalist Compartmentalizing Disintegration: mind from body, one sense from another
12:00-12:45	Lunch; restroom break; Group Discussion
12:45-3:15	Walk-and-talk discussion relevant to personal development as a naturalist Motivations, dedication, and discipline Obstacles: real and imaginary Technology and cultural conventions Fulfillment of self: student, teacher, mentor, example
3:15-3:30	Return to Seminar Center
3:30-4:00	Test; Discussion of for-credit projects; return to Seminar Center; summarize and conclude seminar; fill out evaluations

WHAT TO BRING:

As you deem appropriate for a naturalist afield.

Instructor's Note: The entire day will be spent outdoors walking at a naturalist's pace. How you prepare will be an expression of what you have learned.

10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Map & Compass
- Flashlight or Headlamp
- Sunglasses & Sunscreen
- Candles
- Matches or Other Fire Starter
- Extra Food & **WATER**
- First Aid Kit
- Pocketknife
- Extra layers of clothing

Note: Rocky Mountain Field Seminars recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable/sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Holldobler, Bert and E.O. Wilson. 1994. *Journey to the Ants*. Harvard University Press. If after reading this book you think it is about ants, you missed the point. This book – a celebration of the magnificence of life! – will do more to upgrade your biological literacy than any other single book I can recommend.

Rolston III, Holmes. 1986. *Philosophy Gone Wild*. Prometheus Books; Buffalo, New York. This is thought-provoking material that cannot be read quickly or lightly. Most of it takes more than one read-through to find some point of contact from which thoughtful reflection can begin. Rolston is acknowledged as the father of

environmental ethics and has received international acclaim for his accomplishments. This book is ultimately worth the effort.

Wilson, E.O. 1984. *Biophilia*. Harvard University Press. Shorter and easier to read than *Philosophy Gone Wild*, this book attempts to put a name to the inner sense of connection that naturalists – perhaps uniquely among people – feel towards the living world. The premise of this book shook the philosophical and scientific worlds of both common culture and academia; the ripples are still felt today.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS
LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

PAGE 2 OF 2

NATURAL HISTORY IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
THE CORE CURRICULUM WITH KEVIN COOK:
SHARING KNOWLEDGE OF THE OUTDOORS

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT

All courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of cooperative Education Services (BOCES). Fees range from \$10 for .5 units for a one-day seminar to \$45 for 3.0 units for a six-day seminar. Participants must pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS PURSUING CSU CREDIT

THIS COURSE IS ELIGIBLE FOR CSU CREDIT PROVIDED YOU REGISTER FOR AT LEAST TWO OF THE COURSES IN THE NATURAL HISTORY CORE CURRICULUM.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: See Above.

CONTACT HOURS: 8

EVALUATION TECHNIQUES: Students will be evaluated based on the identification techniques demonstrated in the course and will be expected to participate in a test and turn in a final project.

GRADING METHOD: Pass/Fail